LKS2 Otters Years 3 & 4

Theme: Explorers

History: A study of Explorers in British History

During this unit children will study a range of famous explorers through history, such as Cooke, Columbus, Drake, James Bruce and George Bass and compare these to present day explorers, sequencing events in simple narratives. They will be able to use words which mark the passing of time e.g. moving from simple 'before and after' to use words such as during or while. Children will extract simple information from text/pictures/objects showing basic comprehension. During this process they will grasp that interpretations might differ depending on the aspect that people are looking at; for example views of the Victorians might be more positive if looking at benefits of industrialization and empire, and more negative if looking at child labour or slavery.

Science: Forces and magnets and light

Linked to their D&T unit, children will compare how things move on different surfaces, noticing that some forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance. In scientific enquiry, children will compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet and identify some magnetic materials. In simple tests they will predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.

During a project on puppets children will study light, learning they need light in order to see things, dark is the absence of light and that light is reflected from surfaces. They will learn that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object, and that light from the sun can be dangerous.

Geography: The journey of explorers, the journey of our food

Linked to their History study, children will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the wider world by investigating food (tea, bananas, chocolate etc) and its links between people and environments. They will understand some reasons for similarities and differences between different environments through investigations of a variety of places by asking and responding to geographical questions. Through this they will make observations and use sources such as maps, atlases, globes, images and aerial photos. Children will express their opinions and recognise that others may think differently.

DT: To design and make puppets to create a whole class theatre

Levers and linkages – within this unit, linked to Science, children will create a classroom theatre set linked to The Globe Theatre. They will explore, develop and communicate design proposals by discussing and modelling ideas. In sketch books they will make drawings with labels before selecting tools and techniques for making their product. This will enable children to have the opportunity to measure, mark out, cut, score and assemble components with more accuracy. Children will evaluate their work both during and at the end of the assignment.

Art: Portraits Holbein

Linked to their History unit, children will create portraits of famous explorers of the past. They will learn to predict with accuracy the colour that they mix and know where the primary and secondary colours sit on a colour wheel. Children will produce a background for their portrait using a wash and use a range of brushes to create different effects.

Computing: Information technology

Children will know how to use software to create a simple brochure on explorers using Publisher and a poster to advertise their puppet show.